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Attorney General John Ashcroft, Justice Dept.
950 Penna. Avenue
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am glad that the litigation in this matter with Microsoft has ended with a settlement. Settling in this case is better for all. There has been a noticeable uncertainty in the IT industry over the threat to break Microsoft up, and this settlement at least will end this talk and help us all get back to business.

Progress in the IT industry, and the strength of this country's IT infrastructure, depend upon both innovation and some semblance of standardization. The prevalence of Microsoft software has greatly aided the exchange of information both within and between organizations. This prolonged legal action is hurting this country by slowing progress to a crawl.

I can appreciate that Microsoft's competitors are unhappy with this prevalence, but that's the way it has worked out. To them I say, there are plenty of other problems to be solved and they should put their resources into solving them instead of counter-productive efforts directed against Microsoft.

For their part, the evidence indicates that Microsoft has engaged in unfair business practices and abused their monopoly position. I see that penalties and restrictions on their future behavior are part of the settlement. I hope that the settlement terms were negotiated in good faith by both parties to effectively address the issues.

I am writing in support of the settlement of the Microsoft case, and the sooner the better. I am hopeful that with it, some uncertainty in the IT industry will be resolved, and we can all put this behind us.

Sincerely,

David Weston
Vice President